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General Patton... New York... CRYRIGHT

no indicate that the Administration... the press office said it

proceedings that followed hard on the Cuban debacle, the first has begun to wear thin. This is the inevitable game played in every capital after a season of appointing blame and speculating on the degree to which this or that official has gained or lost caste. Thus Time magazine, with what seems like unnecessary relish, reminds a dip in prestige for the professorial team of Dean Rusk, Bundy, and Rostow. Throwing in Dean Rusk for good measure, Walter Lippman agrees that, whether this is true or not, it should be, on the curious ground that these 'new hands' failed to protect the President against the bad advice of his old hands. Others add General Lemnitzer and Admiral Burke, from the Pentagon, and a New York Daily News columnist reports hearing everywhere the suspicion voiced that the Cuban debacle was brought about by 'Commie sympathisers in high government posts' - a symptom of the same paranoia that held General Marshall personally responsible for Chinese Communism.

In all the assessing that has gone on, however, there is overwhelming agreement that President Kennedy himself is in the clear and that the Central Intelligence Agency is in the doghouse - especially Richard Bissell Jr, first deputy in charge of Cuban revolutions. In spite of the President's apparent assumption of full responsibility, the first post-Cuban Gallup Poll shows 87 per cent of the people for him, a peak rarely reached even by Roosevelt.

Far more important than these ballistics is the second preoccupation: not only of the capital but of the country, what do we do next about Cuba? Nothing in the Kennedy record, or in the clichés of world politics, invites the belief that he will sit back and do nothing - even if it gives that impression. As moderate and sensible a commentator as William Bradford Huie writes: 'The failure is terrible, but it is not a failure that he is prepared to accept. He will not let it go.' What is the path forward?

What is the path forward? The President's future course will be the result of his personal moves. To seek opposition support for special action in an emergency is one thing; but to part for what is usually missing the support of the American public is quite another. It is not clear that the American public is ready to support a private treaty with Barry Goldwater, labeling Nixon, or an all-out invasion of Cuba. The American public is not ready to support a private treaty with Barry Goldwater, labeling Nixon, or an all-out invasion of Cuba. The American public is not ready to support a private treaty with Barry Goldwater, labeling Nixon, or an all-out invasion of Cuba.

Secretary of State Rusk, who held out against the use of unmarked American planes to cover the rebel landings, has indicated clearly that there will be no further attempt to organize a rebel invasion, intensifying our present economic embargo which damages us as much as they do. The rest of Latin America, about which the United States has been so concerned, who would simply transfer all their business to the Soviet Union if the Administration led up with Castro? The answer would seem to be joint action, economic or military - with as many American states as the US could induce.

Here the question is with what force can Washington ally itself? If it unites its fortunes with dictatorships of the right, it will succeed only in spreading a Castro-style revolution throughout the hemisphere. Courting the non-Communist left might offer greater reward, but at a price that can hardly have had the tacit approval of Goldwater, Hoover and Company. It is too early to be suspicious, but one should not overlook the possibility that in its dealings with Mr. Castro, the Administration may after all be planning no more than to fall back on the face-saving effects of rhetoric and the soothing effects of time.